

23. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein each resilient element is coupled to the first end of each support.

24. (New) The device of claim 20, wherein the shade is adapted to assume an unstable equilibrium position in which the supports and the shade are substantially coplanar with the connector, a collapsed position when the shade and supports are on one side of the unstable equilibrium position in which the shade is folded, and a deployed position when the shade and supports are on the other side of the unstable equilibrium position in which the supports and the shade are expanded.

25. (New) The device of claim 20, wherein the connector has a central portion, and one leaf for coupling the first end of each support, with the leaf hingedly connected to the central portion by an integral thin section.

26. (New) The device of claim 25, wherein the leaf has a locking member, and the central portion has a groove, with the locking member fitted inside the groove to hold the leaf at a fixed position with respect to the central portion.

27. (New) A sunshade, comprising:
a shade;
a first support and a second support, each support having a length, a first end and a second end, with the first and second ends of each support coupled to the shade at spaced-apart locations thereof, each support having an adjustable length; and
wherein the first and second supports overlap each other.

28. (New) The device of claim 27, wherein each support has a resilient element.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 has been canceled without prejudice, and replaced by new claims 20-28. Claims 9-28 are currently pending. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

First, the allowance of claims 9-19 is gratefully acknowledged.

Second, claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice, so the Section 102

rejection based on USP 5,694,998 to Chen ("Chen") is now rendered moot.

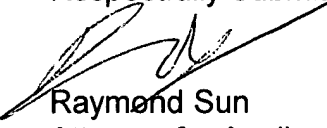
New claims 20-28 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that these new claims are allowable over Chen:

Independent claim 20 recites, among other limitations, at least two supports, with the second end of each support coupled to the shade at spaced-apart locations thereof, and with the first end of each support coupled to a connector. In contrast, Chen does not disclose any connector which couples the first end of a plurality of supports. For example, the suction cups 9 in Chen cannot correspond to the claimed connector because none of the suction cups 9 are coupled to both the supports 2 and 3. Thus, claim 20, and claims 21-26 depending therefrom, are submitted to be allowable over Chen.

Independent claim 27 recites, among other limitations, that the first and second supports overlap each other. In contrast, Chen does not disclose overlapping supports. For example, the supports 2 and 3 in Chen do not overlap. Thus, claim 27, and claim 28 depending therefrom, are submitted to be allowable over Chen.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 9-28 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if there are informalities that can be resolved in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any ideas or suggestions for further advancing the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,


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I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Date: May 2, 2003

By: 
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